



Friends of the Santa Clara River

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September 1, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612

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Coalition

Wishtoyo
Foundation

Re: Santa Clara Restoration Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Morabito,

Friends of the Santa Clara River strongly supports the proposed Santa Clara Restoration Feasibility Study.

Friends has struggled for the past 11 years to protect the Santa Clara River from the worst effects of rampant development in the upper river corridor and to participate in habitat restoration efforts in the lower river, the section of the river involved in the Restoration Feasibility Study. This section contains the finest stands of riparian habitat anywhere along the river.

The Santa Clara River Parkway Project is an endeavor magnificent in scope that has given all of us the hope that the lower Santa Clara can one day look much as it did before human activity began degrading river floodplains and terrace lands. Restoration work has already begun on the Hedrick Ranch Nature Area, which Friends is managing, and was the first property acquired under the Parkway Project.

The Restoration Feasibility Study will provide much needed information and is vital if the overall goals of the Parkway Project are to be achieved.

We urge your Board to approve funding for the Study.

Sincerely,

Ron Bottorff, Chair

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**Assembly
California Legislature**

FRAN PAVLEY
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT

CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
ON RESOURCES (NO. 3)
COMMITTEE MEMBER:
APPROPRIATIONS
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM & INTERNET MEDIA
BUDGET
EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

September 8, 2004

BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Paul Morabito, Chair and Members of the Board
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

**Re: Santa Clara River Parkway
Restoration Feasibility Study
File No. 00-105 – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Morabito and Boardmembers:

I am writing in support of the authorization of funds to prepare the above feasibility study. This is a critical study for an important project.

Reconnecting the river to the floodplain will have multiple benefits to the entire watershed. These include restoring the natural hydrological function, restoring aquatic and riparian habitat, and providing for public access and environmental education, including via the continuous trail system that is contemplated in the project.

This site is environmentally rich and extremely diverse. The project has the support of property owners, governmental agencies and representatives, and environmental groups. Initial funding for the project in the amount of \$9.2 million was appropriated by the legislature in 2001 for the Santa Clara River Parkway.

I encourage your favorable action on this important next step toward moving this very significant project forward.

Sincerely,



FRAN PAVLEY,
Assemblymember
FP:lr



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